

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

MRS. M. ALBERTA HARRIS,  
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

GILA COUNTY

ARIZONA

From December 1, 1936 - November 30, 1937

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Annual Narrative Report  
of  
Mrs. M. Alberta Harris,  
Home Demonstration Agent

Gila County

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Organized extension work in Gila County was developed by the Home Demonstration Agent in 1937 in two communities--Globe and Young.

Demonstrations by the agent in mending, sewing techniques and knitting built up interest for two specialist clothing schools in Young. The latter made an outstanding record of completions.

A sewing machine clinic at which fifteen machines were cleaned and repaired preceded the first specialist clothing school.

At the beginning of the canning season in Young the agent gave two demonstrations in food preservation. Specialist demonstrations in spring and fall respectively in CHEESE-MAKING AND COTTAGE SPREADS completed the work in foods.

Two 4-H Clubs in Globe completed a program of Health Activities. A 4-H Canning Club in Young of seven Members sent delegates to the Roundup who carried off highest honors in judging.

In addition to organized extension work, the agent supervised home accounts of rehabilitation clients throughout the county as needed.

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937

## ORGANIZATION

### Policy

At present there is in Gila County no county wide extension organization of women. The policy of the home demonstration agent in 1937 (as outlined for her by the state office) has been to carry out the rural rehabilitation program, and to arrange to give extension work where requested.

### Procedure

The decrease in the volume of rehabilitation work in 1937 from that of the previous year essentially modified the agent's activities. Areas visited frequently and regularly last year were this year visited rarely if at all. Contacts were, therefore, limited and organization depended almost wholly on local request. In February the women of Young wrote to the home demonstration agent (apparently as the result of a suggestion by the county agricultural agent) and asked for extension work. The agent sent them a survey questionnaire in order to gauge their needs and ascertain their interests, and the Young program was developed after tabulating their replies.

In response to a request from the school nurse in Globe, assistance was given in the selection of leaders for a health club and in the organization of the club. The development of a 4-H canning club in Young was an outgrowth of adult extension work there.

## COUNTY PROGRAM OF WORK

### Factors Considered in Determining Program of Work

Since the present home demonstration agent in Gila County serves primarily as a home supervisor for rural rehabilitation work the kind and amount of which is largely determined by the Gila County farm supervisor, and since the development of any true extension program had to wait upon local request, an element of uncertainty was injected into program planning for 1937. The program had to be made solely on a basis of needs and possibilities.

### Project Activities and Results

Projects were originally planned in rehabilitation, home accounts, homemaker clubs, home furnishings, clothing, and 4-H health. After the Young questionnaire was tabulated, substitutions and additions were made to allow work in food preparation and preservation and in 4-H canning.

#### Rural Rehabilitation:

With the resumption of activity in the mining industry in Gila County unemployment has decreased, and local agricultural markets have improved. There has been, therefore, apparently less need of rehabilitation work than formerly. There were few applications for loans, and only two were made. There was but one emergency investigation. Two standard clients moved to other localities and changes in family setup occurred. The number of client families to be served by the agent has shrunk from fourteen to ten--in six widely remote communities. A policy of curtailment of expenditure for travel has limited home supervisory activities with these.

Rehabilitation work may be summarized as follows: Home visits made, 25; requisitions made for commodities, 9; budgets prepared for recommended grants, 3; standard clients assisted in the second home plan, 3; and new home plans for applicants, 1.

#### Home Accounts:

In deference to the wish of the RR farm supervisor less attention has been given to rehabilitation accounts than was given last year. The mid-summer analysis of one of last year's account books provided a happy stimulus in the family who kept it. At the present time six books are being kept. With the approval of the supervisor one of these families is using a Home Bureau book as a genuine extension project.

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937

Homemaker Clubs:

Limitations on rehabilitation travel during the months of the year when women in Tonto Basin, Gisela, and Claypool might have been interested in club work prevented any steps in that direction. It is the opinion of the agent, however, that these locations offer a logical beginning for such work in the county.

Home Furnishing:

Contacts in Pine, Payson, and Star Valley did not provide an adequate basis for developing a home furnishings school. These also are good locations for such effort, however, and if travel permits, the goal should be achieved next year.

Clothing:

The introduction of the clothing project in Young was not a result of its being first choice with the women. They preferred something in child care, or food preservation, or a craft that might add to the family income. It was suggested that as there was possibility of the addition of a Child Care Specialist to the Extension Staff, it would be well to wait for that work. The development of skill in food preservation was regarded by the agent as the best method of supplementing family income; and the first specialist clothing school was offered as a substitute for the child care project. The spirit of co-operation shown by the women augurs well for what they may do when they do secure their real choice.

The clothing work in Young found its beginning in a homemaker lesson called Pleasant Patching. This demonstration was presented by the agent to a small group of women who met with her for program planning, and was well received but did not lead, as was hoped, to the adoption of the homemaker club programs.

A May school for instruction in sewing processes preliminary to the specialist school was, therefore, offered. The following processes were demonstrated, with enrollments in successive sessions as indicated:

Demonstration	Enrollment
Manufacture and uses of bias tape	14
Seam finishes; the arrow head on inverted box pleats	17
Lap plackets; the welt buttonhole	20

Fifteen women completed the work.

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937



A few  
of the good  
looking dresses



M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937



made in the July  
clothing school in  
Young

At a June meeting the state extension clothing specialist was present and gave a talk on styles, patterns, and materials, and assisted the women in the selection of patterns and materials to be used in the July clothing school. An attendance of twenty-one women promised well for the cotton dress school in prospect.

The July school opened with a sewing machine clinic which was held in the community church, the seats having been moved back to make room for the machines. Twenty women reported for work and during the half day session fifteen machines were cleaned and adjusted. Most of the machines were allowed to remain for the clothing demonstrations to follow.

Notwithstanding the advantages offered by available space and sewing machines, a larger number presented themselves for work at one o'clock than the specialist could arrange to take care of. Two were permitted to enroll in addition to the original enrollment of fourteen; and it was advised that the remainder, who were all teen age girls, be taken care of in 4-H club work.

Attendance was perfect throughout the duration of this clothing school, and all sixteen women completed their dresses. The records show seventeen sewing processes demonstrated by the specialist in addition to those demonstrated in the May school.

The October wool dress school was a substitution for work in Pine and Payson which had not developed. As the agent was on sick leave resulting from a car accident, the state home demonstration agent accompanied the specialist to Young. An excellent four day school with nine in regular attendance and sixteen visitors for the revue on the last day was reported.

A small knitting demonstration by the agent in September was fitted into the larger series--both for the purpose of maintaining interest in the clothing project and to provide a possible background for advanced knitting work in the future. Six women received instruction in fundamental knitting stitches. All of them made hand bags, planned to harmonize with materials already selected for the wool dresses to be made later.

The agent considers that this series of very successful schools were the result, (1) of careful planning with the specialist for a well integrated course, and (2) good initial demonstrations that fostered interest while developing the skill of the women who enrolled for work.

#### Food Preservation:

This project was carried out in the Young community in three demon-



strations: Cheese making, hot pack canning, and jelly making.

Young is a broad mountain valley, remote from markets, fertile, probably irrigable without great difficulty. In conference with the county agricultural agent it was decided that cheese making might prove a satisfactory source of supplementary income in some of the homes, and moreover might eventually develop into a community enterprise. The assistance of the extension specialist in dairying was, therefore, secured for a cheesemaking demonstration in April.

The co-operation of the county agricultural agent contributed greatly to the success of this school. Twenty women were in attendance and a five pound cheese was put in the homemade press at the close of the demonstration. When the cheese was cured it was served at club meetings. Two group repetitions of the demonstration have been reported to the agent, and home-made cheese was entered in the Young fair in October. A local store has arranged to stock the home-made cheese whenever it is available.

The agent gave demonstrations in hot pack canning and in jelly making at the beginning of the canning season. A tin can sealer and tin cans were used for the canning demonstration, and the superior flavor of the green beans that were canned was noted when they were opened on the second day of the school. A Jelmeter and a candy thermometer were used in the jelly demonstration. Fourteen Jelmeters were purchased by women in the valley, and the nicest jelly ever made was later reported to the agent.

The enrollment for these demonstrations are recorded as follows:

Hot pack canning	10
Jelly making	14

The disability of the agent following her automobile accident in September has prevented any adequate reporting of the total amounts of food preserved as the result of these demonstrations. It has been evident, however, that interest in canning was stimulated, particularly in the use of tin cans, the Jelmeter, and the candy thermometer.

In addition in September, following a beef judging demonstration, a community gathering canned an entire beef under the direction of the county agricultural agent. This occurred during the sick leave of the home demonstration agent; she was very glad indeed it could be done. The use of the rehabilitation community canning outfit for further canning in the valley has been requested and is promised for delivery as soon as transportation can be arranged.

**Food Preparation:**

Interest in the dairy specialist's cottage cheese spread demonstration was aroused at the time of the cheese-making in April. The women requested COTTAGE CHEESE SPREADS as an aid in preparing school lunches. It was consequently given in September before a group of fifteen women.

**4-H Club Work:**

An outbreak of measles in the fall prevented reorganization of the Gisela Health Club. Gisela expects, however, to carry club work this year.

Two First Year Health Clubs with a membership of 30 were organized in Globe in January after a conference with the school nurse and the leaders she secured. Material was supplied and the work was fully completed although the promised records were never received by the agent. At last accounts the clubs were finding it difficult to secure an achievement date (this is a common difficulty when 4-H club work is carried in graded schools); however, the agent still expects to be able to secure the completions from the teachers.

General interest in 4-H work in Young led to the formation of a 4-H Canning Club at the time of the agent's adult canning school, and excellent leaders were secured. Seven girls completed intine for the state Roundup and three delegates attended Roundup. All three placed in both team and individual judging; they took home with them three blue ribbons, one red ribbon, and one white ribbon, representing a total score of 209 points. Their success in competition has given club work a great impetus in Young.

### THE PRESENT OUTLOOK

It is apparent to the agent that the outstanding quality of the extension work done in the past year at Young might be duplicated elsewhere in the county. The social service nurse who met groups in Pine and Roosevelt in 1936 found the women there just as co-operative as at Young. Gisela has good, though small, attendance at meetings, and Tonto Basin needs what extension service has to offer. But some of these centers, as well as smaller ones, cannot hope to have extension work for women under the present arrangement.

The agent's time is divided four ways; between two counties, and between extension work and rehabilitation work. The small number of rehabilitation clients in Gila County limits the time and travel approved by the resettlement administration, which pays for travel and subsistence. In fact, travel to points in Gila from Casa Grande is in itself an item. Yet both time and travel are necessary to establish the background of contacts for successful extension work.

While it is hoped that next year may see development in one or more other centers similar to that which took place in Young this year, the total of extension activities next year may <sup>now</sup> be greater than they were this. If the rehabilitation program in Pinal County continues at its current rate of increase, there may be less time for Gila.

The present agent would welcome the appointment of a full time home demonstration agent for Gila County. She believes the women are ready for it. Timeliness in other respects is a matter for conjecture.

PROGRAM FOR ADULT WORK AS PLANNED AND ACHIEVED

in  
Gila County  
1936-1937

Project	Rehabilitation	Home : Food	Home : Food	Home : Accounts	Home : Furnish	Clothing	Sewing
		Maker: Preparation	Preservation		ing		Machine Clinic
No. Groups planned	Individual	2	none	Individual	2	1	None
Location	Where needed	Tonto Basin or Gila	Claypool	Where needed by re-habilitation clients	Pine & Payson	Young	
No. Groups achieved	--	none	1	3	--	5	1
Location	Wherever found	Young	Young	All client families	Advanced clothing in Young substituted	Young	Young
No. in- dividuals enrolled	14	15	44	10		70	19
No. in- dividuals completed	14	15	44	8		53	19

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PROGRAM FOR ADULT WORK AS PLANNED AND ACHIEVED (continued)

Project :	Rehabili- tation :	Home : Maker : Clubs :	Food : Prepara- tion :	Food : Preserva- tion :	Home : Accounts :	Home : Furnish- ing :	Clothing : Clothing : Clinic :	Sewing : Machine : Clinic :
Work accom- plished :	25 visits :	1 demon- stration : given :	1 demon- stration : given :	3 demon- stration : given :	8 families : assisted :	34 demon- stration : given. 26 : hauling :	15 mach- strations : given. 26 : hauling :	15 mach- strations : given. 26 : hauling :
Value in aggregate :	---	---	---	\$ 3.00	---	\$150.00	\$240.00	
Amount saved :	---	---	---	\$ 3.00	---	\$175.00	\$ 75.00	

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937

PROGRAM FOR JUNIOR WORK AS PLANNED AND ACHIEVED  
in  
Gila County  
1936-1937

Project	:	4-H Health	:	4-H Canning
No. groups planned	:	2	:	none
Location	:	Globe Gisela	:	
No. groups achieved	:	2	:	1
Location	:	Globe	:	Young
No. individuals enrolled	:	30	:	7
No. individuals completed	:		:	7
Work accomplished	:		:	Canned 75 quarts
Value in aggregate	:		:	\$15.00

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1937



PLAN OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK FOR 1938

BY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITIES

Gila County

~~1937~~

Project	Location	Time	No. of Demon- strations	Method of Procedure to be used	Goals
Rehabili- tation	Wherever clients are found	as needed	as needed	Individual instruction supplemented where possi- ble by group instruction	To improve health and standards of living in rehabili- tation homes
Home Accounts	For re- habilita- tion clients where needed	as needed	as needed	Individual assistance	Planned spending Solvency
Home- maker Clubs	Gisela Tonto Basin or Claypool	4 mo.	4 to each	Monthly meet- ings. Demon- stration of Improved Practices. Training of Leaders	Development of community co- operation. Develop- ment of community leadership. Adoption of one or more im- proved practices in every farm home re- presented in the attendance
Home Furnish- ings	Pine Young	4 days to each	8 to each	Specialist assistance	Maximum enrollment; 80% completion
Clothing	Young	4 days	8	Specialist assistance	80% completion

PLAN OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK (continued)

Project	Location	Time	No. of Demon- strations	Method of Procedure to be used	Goals
4-H Clothing	Young	8 mo.	2	Leaders trained	70% completion
4-H Canning	Young	4 mo.	1	Leaders trained	70% completion

Map of COUNTY SHOWING ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR



- A. Clothing
- B. Foods
- C. 4-H Canning
- D. 4-H Health

+ Rural Rehabilitation Families under supervision of agent.